

High School Principals Explore Regional Concerns

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DEF convened the second meeting of the Regional High School Principals Network at Worcester Technical High School in Newark, MD on February 26, 2009

Public high school principals from throughout the lower Delmarva Peninsula gathered for a meeting on Thursday, **February 26**, at Worcester Technical High School in Newark MD to gain insights from each other about managing well in the high-pressure, high-stakes world of today's schools.

The morning meeting was co-facilitated by principals Lorenzo Hughes of Wicomico High School and Tom Davis of Snow Hill High School and organized by the Delmarva Education Foundation.

Thirteen of the 25 people in attendance were principals representing schools in Accomack (VA), Somerset, Worcester, Wicomico, Dorchester (MD) and Sussex (DE) counties. Other attendees included representatives from local non-profit organizations, school system resource personnel, and two university faculty members specializing in educational leadership.

The meeting agenda for the newly-forming Regional High School Principals Network was organized around an informal discussion of best practices and concerns regarding attendance, high school assessment procedures, funding, and helping students explore colleges economically.

A representative from a company called "Explore Colleges" gave a brief presentation about its services. Worcester County School Superintendent Dr. Jon Andes welcomed the group at the outset, as did the principal of the host school, Dr. Jane Pruitt.

Delmarva Education Foundation Executive Director Katherine Harting told participants, "In many ways, those of us who live in this region have more in common with each other, even if we come from different states, than we do with our urban counterparts." She added, "We can learn from each other and sometimes gain more clout by this kind of networking and collaboration."

After the meeting, participants were given a tour of the brand new high school by Dr. Pruitt.

Before they adjourned, the group made plans to meet bi-annually, with the next meetings scheduled for early August 2009 and February 2010.

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